



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

October 29, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
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First District

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Second District

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Third District

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

**RESPONSE TO YOUR OCTOBER 28, 2003 INQUIRY ABOUT THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS AND THE SALVATION ARMY**

During yesterday's Board meeting, you asked Constance Perett about the services being provided by the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army for disaster victims. Attached for your information is a fact sheet that we received from both agencies.

Please contact the Office of Emergency Management at (323) 980-2260 if you need anything additional in this regard.

DEJ:CP
CM:cm

Attachment

c: Board Emergency Preparedness Deputies

The Salvation Army Response to the October 2003 Fires

The Salvation Army response to the fires in Los Angeles County has been the following:

- **Have lended support to shelters, which were established in Pomona and Santa Clarita.**
- **Have been on stand-by in all areas of Los Angeles County with canteens services and volunteers as requested and needed.**
- **Have provided 550 meals to students of the Cedu Mt. Residential School who were evacuated from their school into the community of Pomona. Salvation Army is also in the process of possibly housing the student at the Salvation Army Camp at Mt. Craggs at no charge until all students and staff can return to their program.**
- **Have provided clean-up kits for victims in Claremont who lost their homes to the fires.**

For additional information and updates, you can contact The Salvation Army Disaster Services Department at (213) 896-9185.



Disaster Operations Report #2

Southern California Wildfires Overview

Update as of October 28, 2003 -- Noon

This report consists of important statistical information and facts from all of the major ongoing relief operations, and will be posted daily whenever the Disaster Operations Center (DOC) is activated. Presently, the DOC will be activated from 11 AM to 6 PM (EDT) daily until further notice.

Impact Assessment

- Governor Gray Davis declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino, Ventura, San Diego and Los Angeles Counties. On October 27, President Bush declared the region a major disaster area which will expedite federal assistance.
- The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) reports over 500,000 acres have burned from the following fires: Cedar, Grand Prix, Simi Incident, Verdale, Old, Piru, Paradise, Mountain and Roblar 2.
- Media reports conflict, but over 1,300 homes are estimated to be destroyed by the wildfires.
- Approximately 40-50,000 residents are reported to have fled their homes.
- Sixteen deaths are blamed on the fires – primarily in San Diego County and San Bernardino County.
- Air traffic has been disrupted with several flights being cancelled or delayed out of Los Angeles and San Diego airports. Also, wildfire forced the evacuation of a Federal Aviation Administration control center near San Diego that coordinates many flights arriving and departing Southern California.
- Power outages have been reported and some reports indicate that more than 83,000 customers have been impacted.

Red Cross Chapters Impacted

- American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles (Lead)
- Claremont Chapter, Claremont
- High Desert Chapter, Victorville
- Inland Empire Chapter, San Bernardino
- Inland Valley Chapter, Ontario
- Pomona Valley Chapter, Pomona
- Riverside County Chapter, Riverside
- San Diego/Imperial County Chapter, San Diego
- Ventura County Chapter, Ventura

Red Cross Response and Activation

- Shelter Information:
 - 21 shelters/evacuation centers have sheltered approximately 6,400 residents combined.
 - 16 in-state Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) are providing Mass Care support to evacuees, as well as the firefighters who are relentlessly trying to contain the fires.
 - A headquarters is being established at the old Norton Air Force Base Exchange in San Bernardino.
 - The Disaster Field Supply Center (DFSC) in San Pedro was activated to provide cots, blankets, comfort kits and other shelter support items to the responding chapters.

- National resources are already en route: a Communications Response Vehicles (CRV), Disaster Services Technology Integration Project (DS-TIP) servers and national Client Assistance Cards.
- **Disaster Information Resource Center (DIRC):** Chapters in California are publicizing the 866-GET-INFO number. The call center in Falls Church, Virginia will be operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to callers inquiring about evacuation information, shelter locations, disaster preparedness and response activities, post-disaster assistance, recovery information and welfare inquiries.
- From October 27-28, 7 AM to 7 AM, 1,623 calls have been received.

Other Red Cross Activities

- **Biomedical Services' Blood Region:** Santa Ana winds and the fires have impacted the humidity. Our National Testing Labs require an environment of air humidity in the range of 30% to 70%. We have humidifiers in our labs to correct for this. The winds and fires have pulled all of the moisture out of the air to a level where our humidifiers cannot keep up. As a result we have suspended testing at the San Diego NTL until we can bring this environmental parameter back into control. All testing done by San Diego has been transferred to St. Louis National Testing Lab. The San Diego Division of the Southern California Region has cancelled 15 blood drives scheduled over the next five days. This is a loss of 517 prospective units. Red Cross has shipped 125 units of Red Cells to our colleagues at the Blood Bank of San Bernardino-Riverside Counties to assist them as they have also lost blood drives due to the wild fires.